

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the West Kesteven
Rural District

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

REPORT OF THE


Chief Sanitary Inspector

G. L. ROBINSON, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.S.I.A.

1940

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. L. ROBINSON, M.I.M. & CY.E., M.S.I.A.,
Certificated Inspector of Meat and other Foods,
also Water Engineer and Surveyor.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

J. DEAN, A.R.S.I.

Junior Assistant :

A. R. HOLMES (on Active Service).

Clerks :

R. P. COX (on Active Service).

S. J. SIMMS.

West Kesteven Rural District Council.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1940.

Population (Estimated for the year)...	...	14,880
Area ... ..	...	122,406 acres
Rateable Value ... ..	...	£56,025
Estimated product of a penny rate ...	...	£222

		Total.		Males.		Females.
BIRTHS ... ..	...	237	...	123	...	114
Legitimate ... ..	...	221	...	117	...	104
Illegitimate ... ..	...	16	...	6	...	10
Stillbirths ... ..	...	10	...	7	...	3
DEATHS ... ..	...	230	...	124	...	106
Infantile Deaths ... ..	...	12	...	4	...	8
Legitimate ... ..	...	12	...	4	...	8
Illegitimate ... ..	...	—	...	—	—	—
BIRTH RATE . ... ..	...	...		15·8 per 1,000 per annum		
Average for England and Wales				14·6	„	„
CRUDE DEATH RATE				15·3	„	„
ADJUSTED DEATH RATE ...				13·3	„	„
Average for England and Wales				14·3	„	„
INFANTILE DEATH RATE				50·6	„	„
Average for England and Wales				55·0	„	„

VINE HOUSE,

GRANTHAM,

July, 1941.

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District for the year 1940.

The report will again be of an abbreviated nature.

The Vital Statistics are shown in tabular form, and it will be seen that the figures in every case approximate to the average over the whole of England and Wales.

The table of mortality returns shows that there is only one death from the notifiable diseases excluding Tuberculosis and Pneumonia, namely one death from Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from Puerperal Fever or other maternal causes,

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	16
Diphtheria	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	7
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	5
Measles	...	...	11
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	1
Anterior Polio-myelitis	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	...	52
			—

Scarlet Fever with 16 cases was slightly more prevalent than in the previous year. Six of these cases received hospital treatment. They all recovered, including one of a very severe type which required operation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The incidence of Tuberculosis was for the fifth year in succession slight; one case of pulmonary and four of non-pulmonary disease being the only notifications.

Deaths were four from pulmonary and two from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The figures for infectious disease and Tuberculosis will be found grouped under age incidence at the end of the report.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Diseases		Age Periods					Total	Admitted to Hospital
		0 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65		
Scarlet Fever ...		3	9	4	...	::	16	6
Diphtheria ...		1	...	...	1	::	2	1
Pneumonia ...		2	...	3	...	2	7	::
Puerperal Pyrexia ...		...	...	3	...	::	3	1
Erysipelas ...		...	..	1	...	::	1	...
Tuberculosis ...								
(Pulmonary)			at	all	ages		1	...
Tuberculosis ...								
(Non-Pulmonary)			at	all	ages		4	...
Whooping Cough							5	...
Measles ...	...						11	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...						1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever							1	1
							52	10

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1940

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	1	—	2	2	3	1	1	1

Causes of Death in West Kesteven Rural District, 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				MALE	FEMALE
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro-Spinal fever...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping cough	...	...	—	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	3	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	1	1
9	Influenza	...	...	5	2
10	Measles	...	...	—	—
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	—	—
12	Acute Encephalitis	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer of oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	...	...	—	5
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	2
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	—	5
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	11	5
17	Diabetes	...	...	—	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	9	19
19	Heart disease	...	...	31	29
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	5	3
21	Bronchitis	...	...	7	4
22	Pneumonia	...	...	5	4
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	5	2
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	—	—
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	1	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	3	4
28	Nephritis	...	...	3	3
29	Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	—	—
31	Premature births	...	...	3	1
32	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, Infantile diseases...	...	...	—	2
33	Suicide	...	...	—	1
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	5	1
35	Other violent causes	...	...	7	2
36	All other causes	...	...	18	7
	All causes	...	...	124	106
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—					
	Total	...	...	4	8
	Legitimate	...	...	4	8
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS—Total				123	114
	Legitimate	...	...	117	104
	Illegitimate	...	...	6	10
STILL BIRTHS—Total				7	3
	Legitimate	...	...	7	3
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—

**Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for
the Year 1940.**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
19, WATERGATE,
GRANTHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the West Kesteven
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth and last Annual Report of the work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1940, which, for reasons of economy and due to the increased pressure of work is rather shorter than the one submitted last year.

This, the first year of the war has seen the activities of the Department devoted largely to the call of the abnormal conditions prevailing, with many of the routine duties greatly diminished. Thus, while the work of salvage, repair of war damage, Auxiliary Fire Services and Air Raid Precautions have become of paramount importance, the routine duty of meat inspection has shrunk into insignificance, owing to the fact that the whole of the meat now sold in the district is killed in the Borough of Grantham. None of the slaughterhouses previously licenced or registered are now used for slaughtering.

The Water supplies of the District have received a considerable amount of attention, and Milk supplies have also been given as much time as can be afforded for the purpose.

Thus the year under review has been a busy one, and I would again take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council for the continued consideration and support that I have received in the execution of my varied duties, and also to the Clerk of the Council, who takes a great interest in the work of the Department and whose valued advice is always so readily given, and also to the staff of my Department, who have greatly assisted by their loyal co-operation and the diligent way in which they carried out their duties, which have been particularly arduous, necessitating frequently long hours.

I am, Sir, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. L. ROBINSON,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1941.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections carried out during the year were 3,181, details of which are appended in the following table :—

Dwelling Houses inspected under the Housing Regulations 1925	...	18
Ordinary Inspections for Housing Defects	... ..	364
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress (including reconditioning of houses under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926	...	225
Moveable Dwellings	... ..	11
New Buildings (Supervision under the Building Bye-Laws)	...	182
Workshops, including Bakehouses	... ..	25
Slaughter-houses and Foodshops	... ..	101
Knackers' Yards	... ..	11
Cowsheds and Dairies	... ..	155
Samples of Milk taken for analysis	... ..	1
Water Supplies	... ..	497
Samples of Water taken for analysis	... ..	20
Overcrowding, inspections and investigations	... ..	6
Council House Repairs, routine inspection and supervision	...	355
Sewerage Disposal	... ..	95
Sewer Dykes, supervision cleansing	... ..	72
Number of Drains tested	... ..	68
Scavenging	... ..	152
Infectious Diseases and disinfections	... ..	23
Verminous premises	... ..	23
Rooms disinfected	... ..	10
Petroleum Stores	... ..	28
Air Raid Precautions	... ..	354
Auxilliary Fire Services	... ..	275
Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.	... ..	110
Total		<u>3,181</u>

NOTICES SERVED.

35 Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 51 premises. 2 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Acts.

HOUSING, 1940.

1. - Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	147
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	364
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	18
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	61
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	21
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	21

2. - Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	64
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3. - Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied after service of formal notices ...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	1

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. — Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	23
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	23
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	166
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	9
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Although an ever increasing strain has been placed on the Department due to the essential requirements of Air Raid Precautions and the Auxiliary Fire Service, it will be seen from the statistics detailed in this report that a considerable amount of work has been carried out under the above Acts. The work during 1940 has almost entirely consisted of the abatement of nuisances and the execution of essential repairs, so as to maintain a reasonable standard of housing accommodation in the district.

The re-conditioning of 8 houses under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, was completed at the beginning of the year and, as all grants in connexion with work of this nature were cancelled on the outbreak of war, no further schemes have been submitted.

No Demolition Orders have been made during the year, and only one house has been demolished, the occupants having been rehoused.

WATER SUPPLY.

The work in connection with Water Supplies has been entirely devoted to their maintenance. Satisfactory supplies of water being maintained in the parishes of Claypole, Stubton, Fenton, Colsterworth, Barrowby, Ancaster and Sudbrook. During the year water was carted regularly to the parishes of Long Bennington, Westborough and Dry Doddington.

New water connections were made during the year as follows :—

Barrowby ...	...	...	5
Claypole ...	...	...	3
Colsterworth	...	...	20

The Foxhole Spring supplying the parish of Colsterworth, which has previously provided a very pure water, was found

to be polluted in November last, following a very heavy rain which succeeded drought conditions. Upon this discovery being made, consumers were at once instructed to boil their water, and the source of supply was investigated. Various possibilities as to the cause of the pollution were under consideration at the end of the year, a further sample of water from the spring when taken at a later date was found to be again pure.

Trouble was experienced with their water scheme by the Parish Council of Skillington, and I was asked to advise upon the system and place in working order. The system, which is an old one, consists of a hydraulic ram, pumping water from a spring to the reservoir, from whence it flows to the village. After a careful survey, a large number of defects were found in the mains and these were repaired. The water on analysis was impure possibly owing to the supply main to the ram being defective and allowing surface water to be sucked in. Also the collecting chamber cover was found to be dilapidated. Both the latter were repaired and placed in a proper condition. During the periods of drought the supply is insufficient to supply the full requirements of the village, but this could be improved by the substitution of another method of pumping in place of the existing ram which is wasteful.

The Ropsley water system still continues in an unsatisfactory condition.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Works of Claypole have still continued in their unsatisfactory condition, and the Barrowby Disposal Works have been maintained at as high a standard as can be reached with the present plant.

Various sewer dykes and septic tanks have been cleaned out from time to time as necessary.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

No regular system of scavenging is in force in the District, except the quarterly collection of tins in the parishes of Caythorpe and Fulbeck, which has proved so great a benefit and tidied up the parishes, that it is hoped that other villages will follow their lead. The various parish dumps have been emptied and tips tidied as the need arose.

During the year the Council were required to salvage paper and bones throughout the district. The organisation of this scheme was found most difficult as no existing scavenging scheme was in operation, nor had the Council any plant, vehicles or labour for the purpose. A voluntary system was built up whereby the Women's Voluntary Services conveyed waste paper from each village to certain central dumps, from where it was collected and sold unbaled. Bins were placed in every village as receptacles for waste bones and were emptied periodically.

The system did not operate too satisfactorily and was under review at the end of the year in an effort to effect improvement.

Materials collected (from June, 1940) :—

				Weight.		Value.		
				Tons.	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	21	0	59	5	11
Bones	...	...	...	1	19	4	12	9
				<hr/>		<hr/>		
				22	19	£63	18	8
				<hr/>		<hr/>		

FOOD SUPPLY.

Since the introduction of centralised slaughtering the whole of the meat now sold in the district is dealt with in the Borough of Grantham, and delivered to the various meat shops. The 37 slaughter-houses, previously registered and licensed, are now disused, consequently, the amount of meat inspection has been considerably reduced, but regular routine inspections have been made of all meat and other food shops in the district, and a general standard of cleanliness maintained.

KNACKERS' YARDS.

Both the Knackers' Yards have been inspected periodically, and although one of the yards was found on two occasions to be in an unsatisfactory condition, after informal action the nuisance was remedied.

MILK SUPPLY.

358 persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, as Milk Producers, 3 new registrations being made during the year.

Three firms retail Pasteurised Milk in the district.

Owing to the pressure of other work it has been impossible to carry out more than spasmodic inspections of the above premises, but the following defects have been remedied after informal action taken, viz.:—

Drainage provided	...	...	...	5
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed...				6
Cowshed floors repaired	...	...	...	7
Cowsheds reconstructed	...	...	...	5
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	4
Additional light and ventilation provided			...	3

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

Number in force (Petroleum)	...	...	56
„ (Carbide)	...	...	4
New Petroleum Licences	...	...	—
„ Carbide	„	...	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections of the above were carried out as below :

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupier Prosecuted.
Factories	...	...	...
Workshops	...	...	...
Workplaces	...	...	...
	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...
	25	1	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

		Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	No. of Offences.
Want of Cleanliness	...	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation	...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts,	...	—	—	—	—
Illegal occupation of under- ground Bakehouse	...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	...	1	1	—	—
		—	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	1	1	—	—
		—	—	—	—

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council now own 178 houses in various parishes of the district, all of which have been maintained in proper order. No houses were painted during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The following plans have been approved and buildings erected by private enterprise during the year:—

Houses erected or altered	...	...	35
Garages, Huts, etc.	...	...	2
Cowsheds	...	...	4

